

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 14 are pending in the application.

The dependency of claim 5 has been changed so that this claim is now dependent on claim 1, rather than on non-elected claim 3. It is therefore respectfully requested that claim 5 also be examined on its merits.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 7, 9 and 13 would be allowable. However, based on the following comments, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the instant application should now be allowable.

The valve drive mechanism of claim 1 of the instant application provides, among other features, a support pin 18 that is connectable to a cylinder head 3, wherein the rocker arm 10 is held on the support pin 18 between ends 9, 11 of the rocker arm; a bolt head 22 is disposed on the support pin 18 on a side of the rocker arm 10 remote from the cylinder head 3, wherein the bolt head 22 serves for adjusting a bearing spacing I (see Fig. 3) between the rocker arm 10 and the cylinder head 3 in order to be able to vary valve play; finally, a rotation preventing element 30 is provided that cooperates with the bolt head 22 and has an arresting portion 31 that engages the bolt head, and a support portion 32 that conveys an adjustment moment away.

In contrast to claim 1 of the instant application, it is respectfully submitted that the cited Belsanti reference in fact does not teach or suggest the distinguishing features of Applicants' claim 1. For example, as can be readily seen from Fig. 2 of Belsanti, and as defined in column 3, lines 18 – 20, the bolt 48 extends through the center of the bearing portion or pedestal 34 and thus ties each rocker arm assembly 20 down to the cylinder head 10. It is respectfully submitted that there is no suggestion for adjusting the valve

play in the region of the bolt 48, nor would such adjustment even be possible with the Belsanti arrangement.

In particular, the retainer 40 is disposed below the rocker arm assembly 20 or the rocker lever 28 thereof, and has no connection to the bolt 48. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the retainer 40 of Belsanti is in no way comparable to Applicants' rotation preventing element 30, and can in no way prevent rotation of the bolt 48.

As already mentioned, the retainer 40 is disposed below the rocker arm assembly 20. The purpose of the retainer 40 is to hold all of the pedestals 34 together with the rocker lever 28 disposed thereon. As a result, a permanent subassembly is formed (see, for example, column 3, lines 5 – 11), which is intended to provide easy assembly and disassembly of the valve drive mechanism. In particular, if all of the bolts 48 are loosened, all of the rocker arm assemblies 20 can be raised together from the engine block. Thus, the retainer 40 has the purpose of fixing the pedestals 34 in position relative to one another (see, for example, column 3, lines 34 – 37), so that a displacement of the rocker arm assembly 20 in a longitudinal direction is prevented.

In contrast to the disclosure of Belsanti, as defined in claim 1 of the instant application a support pin 18 is connectable to a cylinder head 3. After a rocker arm 10 is disposed on the support pin 18, a bolt head 22 is disposed on the support pin 18 on a side of the rocker arm 10 that is remote from the cylinder head 3. By displacing the bolt head 22 in the direction of the red double arrow shown in the attached marked-up copy of Fig. 3, the bearing space I between the rocker arm and the cylinder head can be

adjusted for varying valve play (see also the specification, page 7, lines 5 – 16, and page 8, lines 16 – 18). After displacement of the bolt head 22, which is shown in red in the attached Fig. 3, along with the arrow indicating rotation thereof, the bolt head must be fixed in position in order to prevent an unintended adjustment or rotation of the bolt head 22. For this purpose, the rotation preventing element 30 is provided (in addition to the last feature of claim 1, see also the specification, page 8, lines 18 – 22).

Pursuant to claim 1 of the instant application, the rotation preventing element 30 is provided with an arresting portion 31 that engages the bolt head 22. Furthermore, the rotation preventing element 30 has a support portion 32 that during operation of the internal combustion engine absorbs and conveys an adjustment moment that acts upon the bolt head 22 away. For example, pursuant to a first embodiment of the invention, the bolt head 22 is positively held between the walls 28 of the rocker arm 10, or a spring 31 can be used as the rotation preventing element 30 for frictionally resting against the periphery of the bolt head 22, with the ends of the spring being supported on the cylinder head 3 (see, for example, Figs. 4 and 6).

From the foregoing discussion, it can be seen that as defined in claim 1 of the instant application, a rotation preventing element 30 is provided for preventing adjustment or rotational moments that occur during operation of an engine from changing the bearing spacing adjustment that has been set for the rocker arm 10 by the bolt head 22. It is respectfully submitted that neither Belsanti nor any of the other cited references in any way teach or suggest such a rotation preventing element 30 that engages such a bolt head 22, all as required by claim 1 of the instant application.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully request

reconsideration of the allowability of claim 1. Then, if such generic claim 1 is held to be allowable, as Applicants respectfully submit has been demonstrated, Applicants request that the withdrawn claims now again be considered.

Applicants have attempted to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. However, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to be able to resolve any outstanding issues and to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Fig. 3

